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TO RHMFIUU/HQ BICE INTEL WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION WASHINGTON DC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0685
RUEHPNH/NVC PORTSMOUTH 0001
RUEPICB/USCIS FDNS WASHINGTON DC
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHIK/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 0010

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SIPDIS
DEPT FOR CA/FPP (LEDESMA-LEESE)
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EUR POSTS FOR FRAUD PREVENTION MANAGERS
DHS CBP FORENSIC DOCUMENT ANALYSIS UNIT
DHS ICE FORENSIC DOCUMENTS LAB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KFRD](#) [CVIS](#) [CMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: THEFT OF 692 BLANK GREEK RESIDENT PERMITS

¶1. Summary: The Greek recently press reported that, during the weekend of 15/16 August 2009, the Office of Immigration and Aliens Affairs at Kavala in northern Greece was robbed. A small safe containing government documents, including blank alien registration cards, blank provisional legal residence statements, and blank resident permit foils was stolen. The Greek police confirmed press reports that roughly 2500 documents were taken. End Summary.

¶2. The director of the Greek police Aliens Division, Brigadier Kousoutis, provided the following details to posts Fraud Prevention Unit Assistant regarding the stolen documents:

-- 692 blank Greek resident permits with serial numbers ranging from GR1425247 to GR1425300 and GR1425361 to GR1426000.

-- 911 permanent resident identification cards (issued to non-Greek EU nationals); one batch of 897 with serial numbers ranging from 2011103 to 2012000 inclusive and another batch of fourteen (14) with serial numbers ranging from 20186 to 21000 inclusive.

-- an unspecified number of provisional legal residence statements (an interim document of temporary validity which is given as receipt for submitting an application for a resident permit and does not have a serial number).

¶3. Comment: Unlike Greece's blank passport inventory, which is stored in a heavily secured police facility, resident permits are more vulnerable since they are distributed to less protected regional government offices. The loss/theft of resident permit foils in Greece occurs occasionally and Brigadier Kousoutis claimed is always reported quickly to the Schengen Information System (SIS) database. Post has so far not noticed any of the recently stolen documents being used by visa applicants. End Comment.
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